

Washington, D.C. 20505

5 November 1982

OEXA

Colonel George R. Weinbrenner

STAT

Dear George:

Thank you for the article you sent me on Bill Casey's appearance before the American Legion Convention in Chicago. I was pleased I was able to set this in motion.

Since seeing you I have spoken to AFIO Chapters in Missoula, Montana and Honolulu. I am always treated cordially and continue to be most favorably impressed with the enthusiasm of the members.

Please pass along my best to all of your cohorts and I hope our paths cross ere too long.

Sincerely yours,

STAT

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# THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

\$1/October 1982

For God and Country



## America's Booming Underground Economy

CHICAGO  
Conven  
page

# On The Floor: Important Issues



... Continued

National Chaplain; James W. Conway (Mass.), National Historian; and Gary L. Walling (Ill.), National Sergeant-at-Arms. The following national officers were reappointed: National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle (Mich.), National Judge Advocate Bertram G. Davis (N.Y.) and National Treasurer Webber LaGrange (Ind.).

But we're getting ahead of our story, for the Friday preceding the convention—when Legionnaires began arriving en masse—was marked by a number of events that told Chicagoans The American Legion had arrived. During a pre-convention press conference, Natl. Cdr. Flynt told journalists that the Legion was concerned about the Reagan administration's announced plans to no longer carry out a long-term policy of arms sales to Taiwan. Further, Flynt said that "The American Legion is not opposed to a nuclear arms freeze. We remain on record supporting a freeze,

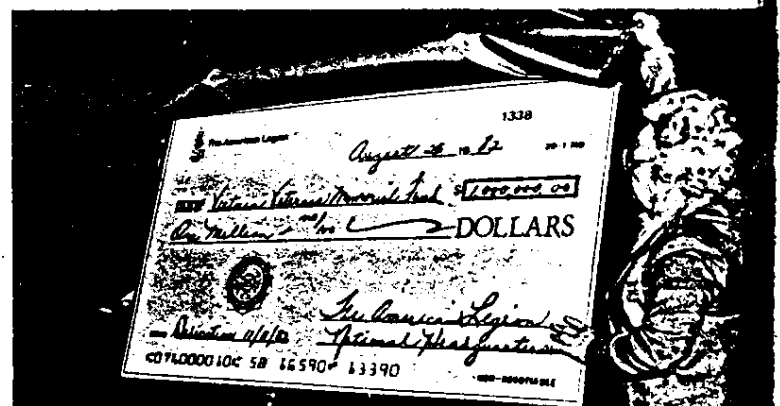
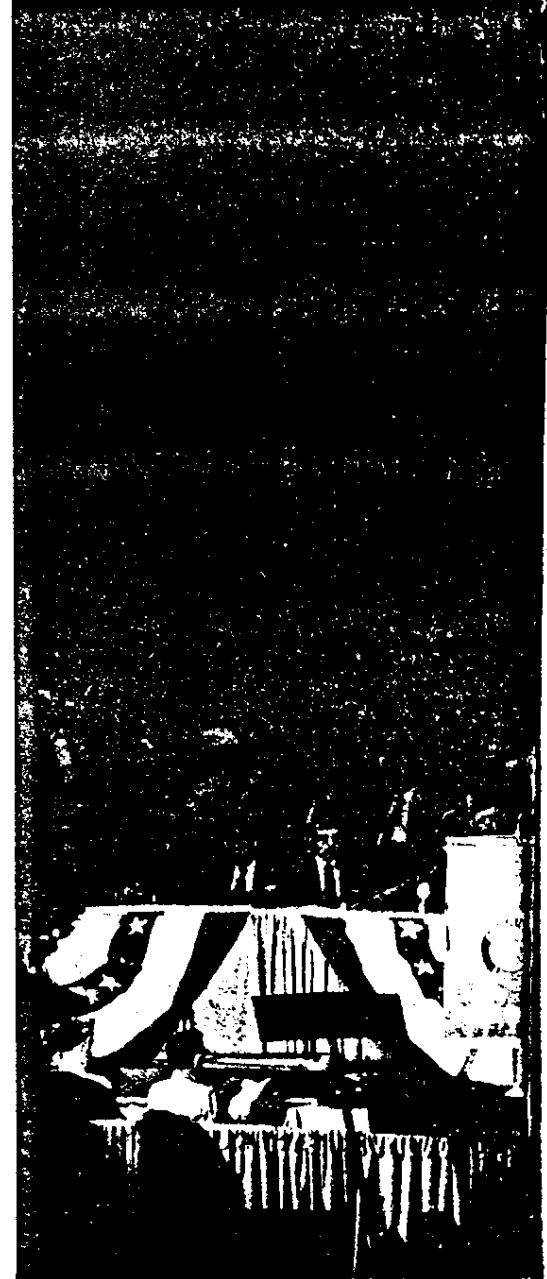
but only under these conditions: the agreement is verifiable; it does not hamper NATO's ability to counter Soviet SS-20 missiles aimed at the heart of western Europe, and that the freeze and subsequent reductions do not place the United States at a disadvantage.

"We firmly believe that deterrence has worked," he added. "Europe has been free from war for 37 years and our position is that it has been so only because of the credible deterrence capability U.S. and NATO forces present."

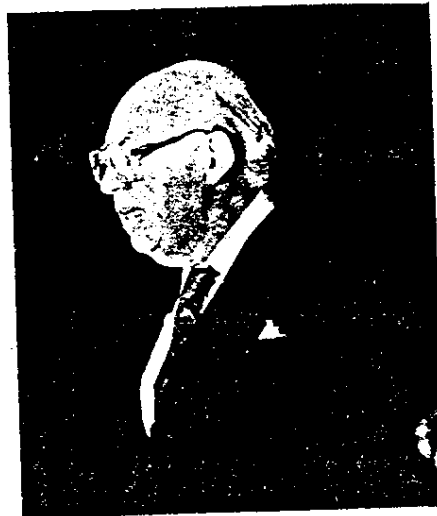
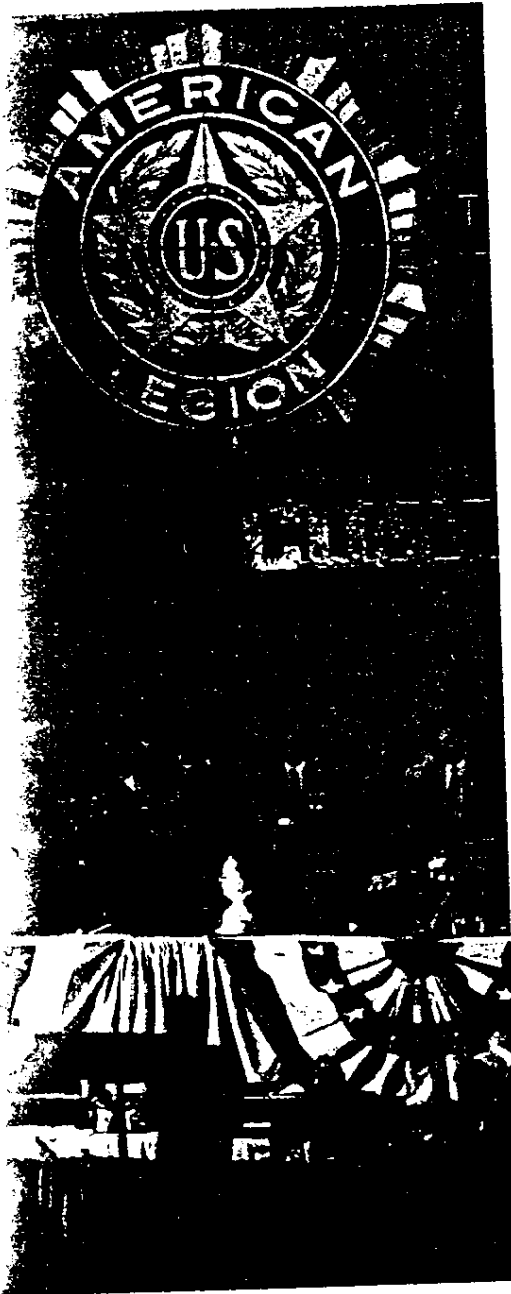
Friday, too, saw 110 members of the National Security Commission getting a headstart on business. The members toured Naval Air Station, Glenview, Ill., where they received a look at the Navy's air power and attended briefings on the Navy's role in national security. Then they traveled to Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., where they were guests at

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Vice President George Bush acknowledges the delegates' applause during his speech on the final day of the convention. At right, Past National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, Dora Seymour, unveils the oversize check representing the Legion's \$1 million contribution to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.



# Important People



*Above, Columbia 4 Space Shuttle pilot Henry W. Hartsfield, Jr., addresses the convention. Clockwise from top right, others who appeared before this year's convention include Commissioner of Baseball Bowie Kuhn; Illinois Governor James R. Thompson; Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne; Sen. John Warner, R-Va., (shown with VVMF President Jan C. Scruggs and Virginia Legionnaire Charles A. Wilson) and C.I.A. Director William Casey.*

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## Windy City

(Continued from page 42)

parade and Patriotic Religious Service. This year's religious service in the Grand Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton featured the traditional laying of the memorial wreaths and a message by National Chaplain George R. M. Rumney (Va.), who called upon the worshipers to rededicate themselves to America's values, values so great that America's men and women willingly fought and died for them on the world's battlefields.

(For a journey along this year's parade route, see pages 38 and 39.)

Monday was Legion Day at Wrigley Field where hundreds of Legionnaires watched Boys Nation President Joseph Wiegand throw out the first ball to open the game between the Chicago Cubs and San Francisco Giants. The advancement of colors preceding the National Anthem was performed by the Double D's Senior Color Guard of American Legion Post 180, Milwaukee, Ore. And the Cubs, no doubt spurred on by a group of cheering Legionnaires who know good baseball playing when they see it, went on to win 8-5.

Opening day activities of the convention on Tuesday, August 24, featured greetings by Illinois Gov. James R. Thompson and Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne. Special recognition plaques were presented to Navy Capt. Thomas K. Mattingly, II, and Henry W. Hartsfield, Jr., crewmen of the Columbia 4 Space Shuttle flight. Mattingly and Hartsfield described their flight into space and lauded The American Legion for its long-standing support for America's space program.

CIA Director William Casey's keynote address during the convention's first day of business was resoundingly applauded when he told the assembled Legionnaires, "As a nation, we have a propensity for shooting ourselves in the foot. One of these self-inflicted wounds leaves us the only country in the world that gives foreign intelligence agencies and anyone else a legal license to poke into (the CIA's) files."

"I question very seriously whether a secret intelligence agency and the Freedom of Information Act can co-exist for very long. The willingness of foreign intelligence services to share information and rely on us fully, and of individuals to risk their lives and reputations to help us will continue to dwindle away unless we get rid of the Freedom of Information Act," he said.

Casey went on to note that national security information should be entitled to protection just as are the files of doctors, lawyers, clergymen and grand juries. "I'm not asking for any retreat from our commitment to protecting essential liberties," he said, "but only to bear in mind, as Justice Goldberg once said, that 'while the Constitution protects against invasions of individual rights, it is not a suicide pact.'"

Another address of note was delivered by Robert P. Nimmo, VA Administrator, who used the occasion to address critics of his first year in the VA's top job. Nimmo said he makes no apologies for having spent funds to redecorate VA administrative offices—one of the charges levied against him—noting that he "inherited drab, dull offices with stained and torn carpeting" that were inappropriate for the offices of the government's second largest agency.

Nimmo blasted journalists who had quoted him as saying, "I don't care about veterans" and that he called Vietnam veterans "coddled and pampered." His response: "I never said it and I never will."

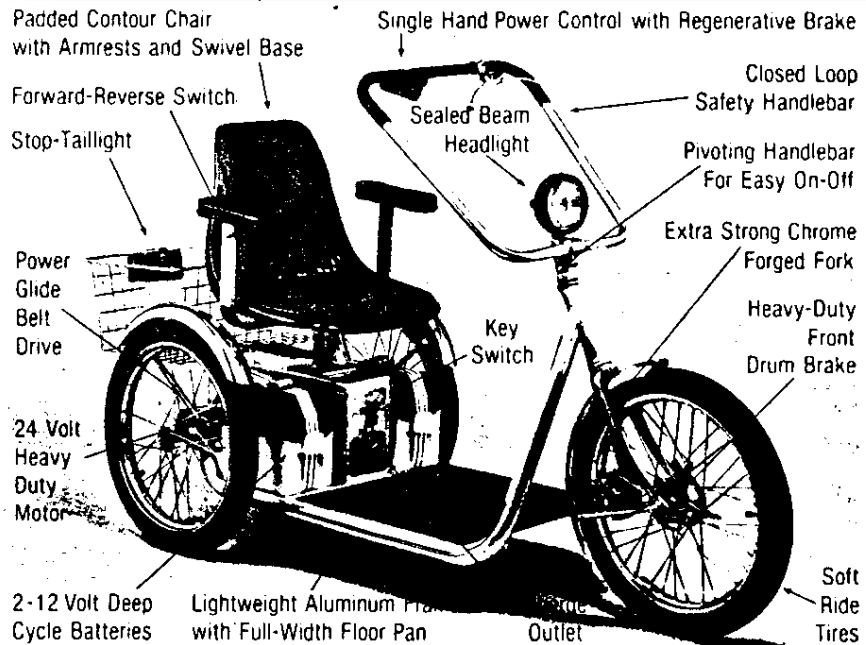
Nimmo also announced plans to seek increased funding in the coming fiscal years for medical research programs, Agent Orange research and the construction of outpatient clinics and nursing homes.

The American Legion's Fourth Estate Award was presented on the second day of the convention to Newsweek magazine for its in-depth article about "Charlie" Company, which traced the war experiences of one Army company in Vietnam and followed up with a look at the soldiers' lives today. Accepting for Newsweek were Peter Goldman, senior editor, and Tony Fuller, national correspondent and principal author of the piece that took up almost the entire issue in which it was featured.

Also announced during the Wednesday session were the winners of the 1981 "Employers of the Year for Hiring Veterans" award, a program sponsored by the Legion under the supervision of the National Economic Commission. The awards this year went to the Inland Manufacturing Company of Omaha, Neb., (company-with-200-or-less-employees category) and to Pope and Talbot, Inc., of Eau Claire, Wis., (company-with-more-

*Continued . . .*

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